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Brunswick Historical Society. The volume was printed and ready in 1901, but owing to an unavoidable concurrence of circumstances its publication was delayed until December, 1904. It is by far the most important single historical collection relating to the maritime provinces that has hitherto been issued. The editor brought to the work an unmatched knowledge of the men and events in New Brunswick for the period covered by these papers, he holding an undisputed first place there as specialist for many years of American loyalist history. The volume teems with annotations by him, which elucidate the text.

The papers presented are a selection out of a "mass of materials of varying degrees of interest and importance to be found in the original collection", in the keeping of Francis E. Winslow, together with letters and documents possessed by other members of the family and some chosen from the Chipman papers, another unpublished mass of important papers to which the editor had free access. Only a few of them appeared in print before, as, for example, those to be found in the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, second series, 1886-1887, III, 64-94. Altogether the volume contains "about six hundred and fifty letters and documents written by about one hundred and seventy different persons and covering a period of nearly fifty years". About one hundred and fifty of Edward Winslow's letters are presented, mostly from rough drafts. The whole material is arranged in chronological order, from January 10, 1776, to January 11, 1826, and is made available by a copious index of over thirty-two closely-printed columns.

One of the points of value in the book is the perfect clearness with which it lays bare the origin of the province of New Brunswick—why it was set off from Nova Scotia in 1784, a subject hitherto obscure. It was largely due to the insufficiency of the officials at Halifax, who were quite unable to cope with the difficulties of settling the loyalists in New Brunswick, on account of the slowness of communication and the desire of the English government to form a new government in which offices could be provided for some of the loyalists who were well fitted for the places. The value of the papers for local history is immense, upon all kinds of matters connected with the province, and this is enhanced by the continuity of the material. It is discernible that Winslow was a chief adviser of Governor Carleton, and that Carleton was a devoted governor, but possessed of only moderate capacity. New light is particularly shed on the province's history from 1800 to 1812. Sixteen plates of portraits, views, and autographs accompany the text.

VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS.

The United States of America. By EDWIN ERLE SPARKS, Ph.D.
(New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1904. Two vols., pp. xi, 425; viii, 385.)

THESE volumes are not intended as a consecutive history of the United States. They are a series of studies in an interpretation of that

history in its consecutive phases. The obvious purpose of the author is to bring out the principal influences and movements in the development of a centralized national life from the original decentralized colonies—from the formation of a loose league, in 1781 and 1787, to the present time. The volumes, without references or citations to authorities, are meant for the general reader rather than for the student. The specialist will find nothing new, except by way of suggestion or arrangement; but to the lay reader Professor Sparks's pages will be found very entertaining and suggestive, provided the reader already has a good basis for his reading in a knowledge of the facts.

The first volume opens with "A Union in Form Only", in 1781, "The Problems of the Back Lands", and the "Failure of the Confederacy", and closes, in 1828, with chapters on "Sectional Discord over Territory", "Announcement of National Individuality", and "Full Fruits of Americanism". Professor Sparks's analysis of his subject and his method of treatment enable him to touch briefly, with mere suggestion, a wide variety of topics in a single chapter. Under the last two chapter-headings, for instance, he brings within the reader's view the cultivation of republican simplicity; opposition to royal forms; separation of church and state; jealousy of European monarchy; American separateness; the nationalism of the Monroe doctrine; literary dependence; philanthropic enterprises; domestic public policies—the bank, tariff, and internal improvements; radical and wide-spread religious movements; the influence of the judiciary on unification and of Marshall's more notable decisions in this direction; the influence of the West; land grants for education; canals and roads and their unifying influence; and other topics that have not fallen logically under the subjects of other chapters. While he gives the history of none of these, he points briefly to the historical significance of all.

The decentralizing influences of the early days are also pointed out. State control of suffrage, and the control by the states of the method of choosing presidential electors; the states as centers of political power and interest; the natural tendencies toward strict construction in spite of the subsequent impossibility of its application; difficulties in interstate communication—in the treatment of these and similar topics the author seeks to present his subject from the viewpoint of the internal life of the states, as well as from that of the central government.

The second volume opens with a comparison of the country in 1829 with what it was in 1789, socially, politically, industrially, and intellectually. Under "Union Profit-Sharing" and "Paternalism in the Middle Period" the author brings into view educational aids from government, road-building, land grants and easy land sales, canals, surplus revenue, and other topics; and he points out how popular interests and demands were breaking the bonds of strict construction. He leads up to the final "Passing of Strict Construction" by the failure of "Secession as a Remedy" and the coercion of the states by the

Union, through a brief consideration of "Abolition", "The Whigs and Nationalism", "War and Territorial Extension", "Saving the Union by Compromise", "The Compromise Annulled by Reformers", and the final struggle for "Federal Control over Territories". Only one brief chapter of twenty-four pages is given to the period of the Civil War, and none of that to battle history. Reconstruction, industrial development since the war, and the present aspect of the republic close the series of studies.

The method of historical treatment presented by these volumes has its objections and difficulties. The facts and the order of facts may be too much taken for granted; and it is difficult to guard a generalization on all sides against misapprehensions and objections. While most students of American history would not dissent in many instances from Professor Sparks's interpretation of our national development, it is easy to see how controversial criticism might arise on every chapter. With the facts of our history used only as a text for comment rather than as a subject for a historical narrative, what is presented becomes very largely a matter of conflicting views and of cleverness and pointedness in expression. The author is apt to be criticized for his omissions, as in the case of Professor Sparks's work for its subordination, not to say omission, of all war history, or for its inadequate consideration of the history of parties in their causes and beginnings. We find no mention, for instance, of the early Free-soil movement, to which such great importance attaches in the early politics of the antislavery movement.

Professor Sparks's illustrations are valuable, especially in political caricature and cartoon. His judgments are acceptable; he shows discrimination in the selection of materials, a fine art in presentation, a vivacious style; and his pertinent and sometimes curious extracts from the sources vitalize his pages and give valuable glimpses of the real life of the past. He has achieved a worthy success in a difficult task.

JAMES A. WOODBURN.

From the Monarchy to the Republic in France, 1788-1792. By SOPHIA H. MACLEHOSE. (Glasgow: James MacLehose and Sons. 1904. Pp. xv, 447.)

IF it be remembered how much has been written upon the French Revolution, it is matter of surprise that there exist few works of moderate dimensions to which the general reader may be sent for an adequate account of the subject. Between the brief manuals suited to use as text-books and the histories in several volumes there is plenty of room for books like this, which aims to give "such a resumé of events as may interest the reader, and send him to the great histories for fuller information" (p. vi). But "resumé" is too modest a description for the book. So far as its scope permits, it is a developed narrative, based not merely upon what others have written, but also upon material collected by the author in the British Museum, the French National